

Section Review

Grammar Exercises 9–17

Exercise 9 Making Verbs Agree

With Their Subjects Choose the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject of each sentence.

1. Nine known planets (rotates, rotate) around the sun.
2. Percival Lowell, along with many other scientists, (has, have) studied the skies.
3. Space probes that travel the solar system (has, have) taken photographs of the sun, moon, and planets.
4. Photographs from space probes (shows, show) a planet with many craters.
5. Every age (has, have) had scientists who studied planetary motion.
6. The word *planet*, which (derives, derive) from the Greek word for *wanderer*, describes the nine large bodies rotating around the sun.
7. A planet with worn-down craters (appears, appear) to be older than one with sharp craters.
8. The planets (is, are) named for mythical Roman and Greek gods.
9. Mercury (is, are) the planet closest to the sun.
10. We (observes, observe) Mercury through our telescope just before sunrise or just after sunset.
11. A year on Mercury (lasts, last) 88 Earth days.
12. Mercury, which is one of the hottest planets, (is, are) named for the Roman god of commerce and quick wit.
13. Scientists who study Mercury (agrees, agree) that the side of the planet facing the sun becomes extremely hot.
14. Mercury, because of its low gravitational forces, (does, do) not have an atmosphere.
15. One of the reasons that Mercury's atmosphere escapes (is, are) lack of gravity.

Exercise 10 Making Verbs Agree

With Compound Subjects Choose the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject of the sentence.

1. Carl Sagan and other scientists (has, have) studied these bodies.
2. Either the moons or the planets (provides, provide) fascinating topics of study for most scientists.
3. Either asteroids or a comet (appears, appear) in this photograph.
4. The comet Halley and the comet Hale-Bopp (orbits, orbit) the sun in regular and predictable cycles.
5. NASA and the United States government (promotes, promote) public support for the space program.
6. Every man and woman in the space program (hopes, hope) to become an astronaut.
7. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin (was, were) the first astronauts to walk on the moon.
8. Each astronaut and astronomer (studies, study) gravitational forces in space.
9. Bacon and eggs (is, are) a dish too high in cholesterol for astronauts to eat on a regular basis.
10. A camera and other instruments (enables, enable) further exploration of planets that future astronauts may visit.

Exercise 11 Revising to Correct Errors in Agreement With Compound Subjects

Revise these sentences, correcting errors in agreement.

1. Our nine planets and our sun rotates constantly.
2. Mercury and Venus is closest to the sun.
3. Neither Mercury nor Venus have moons.

4. Either Saturn or Uranus have the greatest number of moons.
5. Ganymede and Europa is two moons of Jupiter that may contain water.

Exercise 12 Making Verbs Agree With Confusing Subjects Choose the verb in parentheses that agrees with the subject of the sentence.

1. (There's, There are) only one moon orbiting the Earth.
2. One of NASA's plans to map the moon (includes, include) the *Lunar Prospector*.
3. Various investigations of the moon's gravity and composition (was, were) the mission of *Prospector*.
4. About \$70 million (has, have) been spent on the *Lunar Prospector*.
5. Everyone of those involved in the program (believes, believe) that the money was well spent.
6. Some of the scientists (has, have) the idea that the *Prospector* could determine if water exists on the moon.
7. The committee of scientists (agrees, agree) on how to use *Prospector* to such an end.
8. (There's, There are) plans to crash-land the *Prospector* on the moon.
9. Many of the observers (looks, look) forward to studying the dust cloud that will result from the crash landing.
10. Our science class (has, have) been unable to decide which moon to study.

Exercise 13 Supplying Verbs That Agree With Confusing Subjects Copy each sentence onto a separate sheet of paper. Then, write *is* or *are* in the blank to complete each sentence.

1. There _____ many reasons to send spacecraft into orbit.
2. Here _____ one rationale for spending money on the space program.
3. Now _____ the time to find out whether life exists on other planets.

4. Why _____ these questions hard to answer?
5. Beyond our galaxy _____ mysteries that may astound us.

Exercise 14 Revising for Subject-Verb Agreement On a separate sheet of paper, revise the following paragraph. Be sure to correct all errors in subject and verb agreement.

(1) Many of today's scientists believes that some moons in our solar system contains water. (2) Does any of these moons hold the answers to a researcher's perplexing questions? (3) There's several questions researchers might ask. (4) Could moons that have water give scientists hints about Earth's resources? (5) Perhaps, the answers to these questions lies in the near future.

Exercise 15 Find It in Your Reading Identify two subjects and verbs in the excerpt from "To His Excellency, General Washington" on page 585. Tell whether each verb is singular or plural.

Exercise 16 Find It in Your Writing Choose a paragraph from a recent piece of writing. Underline each subject once and each verb twice. Check to make sure that each subject and verb agree.

Exercise 17 Writing Application Write a brief factual account of one of the nine planets or a moon in our solar system. After you have completed the paragraph, draw a single line under the subject of each sentence. Draw a double line under each verb. Then, tell whether each verb is singular or plural.